

# Botched Abortions at Women's Health Care Services

*"We think the process is safe. Nothing is perfect." – George Tiller \**

*"Bad things can happen to good people. You're good people. We're good people. But major problems do occur and they occur every year. We do not walk on water and we are not magic." –George Tiller\**

*\*Quotes from a videotape produced by George Tiller in 2001 as part of abortion patient orientation*

## The Complications

According to Tiller, his late-term abortion procedure has approximately a *two percent* complication rate requiring hospital admission. This amounts to two people in every 100 late-term abortions.

Complications requiring hospital admission include **hemorrhage requiring transfusion, cervical lacerations and obstetrical trauma requiring surgery, and infection**. According to Operation Rescue sources with connections inside Wesley Hospital, Tiller admits to that hospital approximately two women per month suffering from botched abortions.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in 2006 there were 380 post-viability abortions of 22 weeks gestation or older. There were an additional 393 abortions from 18-21 weeks gestation, which are also considered "late-term" abortions. The total of 773 late-term abortions would equal 15.46 complications requiring emergency hospitalization per year, very close to the Wesley source's admission.

## Botched Abortions – Eye Witness Accounts

There have been at least eleven botched abortions, including one abortion death, that have been documented by rescuers who were on hand when the ambulances arrived to transport Tiller's victims to the hospital. Since

Operation Rescue moved its ministry to Wichita in 2002, the documentation of such incidents has vastly improved and has sparked state legislation to force Tiller's mill and other abortion businesses to submit to unannounced inspections. Such legislation has been rigorously opposed by Tiller and his supporters, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

**April 12, 2001**, a young woman was transported from Women's Health Care Services by ambulance to Wesley Medical Center. It is unknown what happened to her or if she even survived.



Photo: Anonymous Contributor to OR

*One of Tiller's victims of a botched abortion is loaded into an ambulance on April 12, 2001.*

**Early October, 2002** — a woman was transported by ambulance to Wesley Medical Center from Women's Health Care Services. Her condition, or whether she survived her injuries, is unknown.

**October 18, 2002** – Less than two weeks after the last incident, an ambulance and paramedics

arrived shortly after 7:30 AM with sirens blaring and lights flashing. An unconscious woman strapped to a gurney was speedily driven to the emergency room of Wesley Medical Center. Abortionist Tiller emerged from the operating room of Wesley Medical Center visibly shaken at approximately 10:30 AM, and returned immediately to his abortion mill.

It is currently unknown if the injured woman survived her injuries, nor is it known if there were any long-term effects from her abortion injuries, if she did survive.

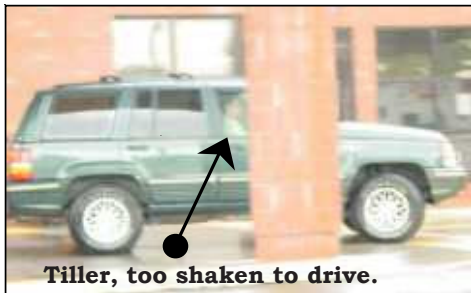


Photo: Operation Rescue

*A shaken Tiller shown at Wesley Medical Center after one of his patients was transported there via ambulance.*

**January 21, 2004** – An ambulance transported a woman to Wesley Medical Center from Women’s Health Care Services on the eve of Tiller providing “free” abortions to women in a sick effort to “celebrate” the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the US Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion. The injured woman was accompanied to the hospital by former Tiller clinic manager Carrie Klaege. The abortionist on duty that day was California child-killer Shelley Sella. The outcome of this woman’s injuries is not known.

**June 4, 2004** – As Operation Rescue staffers snapped pictures and ran videotape at 12:20 PM, an ambulance arrived at Women’s Health Care Services, and transported a



Photo: Operation Rescue

*An ambulance leaves the hospital after transporting a botched abortion victim to the emergency room in January, 2004.*



Photo: Operation Rescue

*George Tiller (center) rushes an abortion patient into the emergency room at Wesley Medical Center on June 4, 2004.*

young blonde woman to Wesley Medical Center after being injured at the abortion clinic.

The woman was accompanied in the ambulance by Tiller himself, who personally escorted the woman into the Emergency Room. Also accompanying the ambulance was long-time Tiller employee Edna M. Roach.

According to witnesses, Roach attempted to hide her identity from those attempting to document the incident as she recklessly sped to the hospital ahead of the ambulance in Tiller’s personal van.

Hospital security stood guard as the woman, with head covered, was wheeled into the Emergency Room with Tiller at her side. OR staff members on the sidewalk outside the Emergency Room documenting the incident called out and urged the woman to sue Tiller for her injuries.

**September 2, 2004** – The paramedics were called to Women’s Health Care Services just before 11:00am. Soon after arriving, an African American woman, visibly writhing in pain, was rushed into the waiting ambulance. “The sirens roared and the lights flashed as they sped toward the Emergency Room of Wesley Medical Center,” said Troy Newman, Operation Rescue President and eyewitness at the scene.

Abortionist George R. Tiller escorted the victim to the hospital inside the speeding ambulance.



The woman apparently suffered severe complications after visiting Tiller's late-term abortion mill earlier in the day. Tiller has been quoted as saying that he transports women to the hospital only if they receive life-threatening injuries during abortions at his outpatient clinic.



Photo: Operation Rescue

*Tiller peeks out of the ambulance only to see OR staffers snapping his photo again. 09/02/04*

Nebraska abortionist LeRoy Carhart was on duty during the abortion injury. The woman's condition – or even if she survived her injuries – is unknown.

**January 13, 2005** – Nineteen-year old Christin Gilbert was transported to the Wesley Medical Center Emergency Room where she later died from a botched third-trimester abortion given her by George Tiller. *(Additional details in "Christin Gilbert" document.)*



Photo: Judi Weidy

*This ambulance rushed a dying Christin Gilbert to the hospital, but it was too late to save her. Tiller followed in his Jeep a few minutes later.*

**February 17, 2005** – An ambulance carrying a patient of Women's Health Care Services

arrived silently and without fanfare at the Wesley Medical Center Emergency Room at 11:21 AM, just 5 weeks after one of Tiller's patients died after a similar trip. Operation Rescue Staffers photographed the scene as emergency workers unloaded a woman completely shrouded in a blanket. The woman's body was strapped to the gurney at the ankles, hips, and shoulders.

Witnesses detected no movement from the woman nor did they observe the usual IV bags and other medical paraphernalia that is commonly seen attached to women who have



Photo: Operation Rescue

*Another Tiller patient is admitted to the hospital on February 17, 2005. She was completely covered in a blanket and not moving.*

been transported to the Emergency Room. It is unknown if the woman was alive or dead.

Departing from routine, Tiller employee Edna Roach, driving a minivan registered to Tiller, sped past the Emergency Room parking lot where she normally arrives, and parked instead at the hospital's main entrance. Roach transported a passenger in the minivan who may have been another Tiller employee, late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart, who was scheduled for duty at WHCS according to a calendar posted to Tiller's website. There was no sign of Tiller.

About an hour later, Operation Rescue staffer Adam McArthur, was evicted from the Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Office by two men after Director Diane Gage denied his Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) request for the 911 audio file and CAD transcript, which were considered open record as early as a month before.

**May 11, 2005** – An ambulance arrived at Women’s Health Care Services at approximately 10:10 AM and remained on the scene rendering emergency medical care to an injured abortion patient for over an hour and a half.

Sidewalk counselors said the suspected victim had arrived at the mill in a private vehicle shortly before the ambulance arrived. The woman “looked white as a sheet” and was slumped down in her seat and wrapped in a blanket.

The ambulance transported the injured woman from Women’s Health Care Services to Via Christi-St. Joseph Hospital. It was later learned by Operation Rescue that it was summoned by late-term abortionist George Tiller prior to the abortion because Tiller feared life-threatening complications, and did not have the facilities to deal with such complications.

According to a partially-redacted Computer Aided Dispatch transcript obtained by Operation Rescue, Tiller called 911 and summoned an ambulance to his late-term abortion mill, Women’s Health Care Services at 10:02 AM on Wednesday, May 11. He called back at 10:06 AM to confirm that the ambulance would be on standby for about an hour and may not be needed.

Anonymous sources confirmed the patient had medical issues that could have been life-threatening if she underwent an abortion. “The last thing Tiller wanted was another photo taken by Operation Rescue of him with another dead patient,” said one source.

Although Tiller emphasized to emergency workers that the ambulance might not be needed, the patient was indeed transported on an emergency basis to Via Christi/St. Joseph’s emergency room, at

11:27 AM, according to the CAD transcript.

Via Christi is a Catholic hospital that has refused to work with Tiller in the past. Catholic pro-lifers are investigating the incident and will seek disciplinary action against any physician who may have been working with Tiller to procure an abortion for the injured patient.

The abortion injury came almost two weeks to the day after the Kansas Legislature failed to override Governor Kathleen Sebelius’ veto of a clinic licensing bill that would have provided minimum safety standards and mandatory health inspections for abortion clinics.

**June 1, 2005** – Late-term abortionist George Tiller rushed to Wesley Medical Center in his private vehicle at approximately 8:30 AM, still wearing surgical scrubs from the morning’s abortions.

Just a few moments earlier Rescuers noticed a green suburban exiting the mill carrying a woman in the back seat with her head covered with a jacket.

“She was slumped down in the back seat, but I saw her head pop up as soon as the vehicle



Photo: Operation Rescue

*This ambulance prepares to load a Tiller abortion patient for transport to Via Christi- St. Joseph’s Hospital on May 11, 2005.*





*Tiller is pictured leaving Wesley Medical Center after committing an abortion on a high-risk patient. Wesley denies that Tiller does abortions there.*

turned the corner,” said one of OR’s investigators who was on the scene at the time. The vehicle was headed in the direction of Wesley Medical Center, where Tiller admits patients suffering from abortion complications.

It was later learned that Tiller actually performed the abortion at Wesley Medical Center, a hospital that insists that no abortions are allowed there. According to sources, the patient had high risk factors, and Tiller was avoiding the possibility of another ambulance scandal at his mill.

An OR staffer photographed Tiller and the victim’s vehicle in the Wesley parking lot. Tiller later left the hospital and returned to the abortion mill at approximately 10:20 AM, however, the patient remained at Wesley.

**July 12-13, 2005** – Ambulances were summoned to Women’s Health Care Services



*This ambulance left empty after being asked to stand by in the event it was needed. This rare day, it was not.*

two days in a row. In both cases, the ambulance arrived at the abortion mill, stayed for a few minutes, and left empty. Pro-lifers were told that the ambulance runs were “precautionary,” but this explanation only raised more questions about the safety of the clinic.

“Tiller apparently has someone with high risk factors at the mill this week,” noted sidewalk counselor Brenna Sullenger in a press statement released by Operation Rescue. “It makes me mad how reckless he is. He obviously cannot insure the safety of his patients, so he should not be doing the abortions. No other reputable doctor would have an ambulance wait in the parking lot just in case he slipped up. This is outrageous conduct.”

### **No More Ambulances?**

Operation Rescue has noted that ambulances are no longer being called for women with observed physical complications from abortions at WHCS. Instead, there are numerous reports that these injured women are being transported to unknown locations in private vehicles.

**October 7, 2005** – A late-term abortion patient raced from George Tiller’s Women’s Health Care Services after returning after-hours with what appeared to be an abortion complication. Operation Rescue was a first responder to a call from a sidewalk counselor who suspected problems with one of the late-term abortion patients.

By noon, all the patients had left the abortion mill along with most of the clinic workers, including the abortionists on duty that morning, Tiller and Sella. Then around 12:15 PM a patient from Missouri returned. Several minutes later, three employees returned to the mill after having left work for the day, including abortionist Sella, clinic manager JoAn Armentrout, and medical worker Edna Roach, who has been seen associated with almost every botched abortion documented by Operation Rescue.



Photo: Operation Rescue

***This car, bearing three people, is shown leaving Tiller's abortion mill long after the other patients and staff had left for the day. Tiller employee Edna Roach's vehicle can be seen behind them.***

Rescuers arrived and witnessed Sella leaving the mill at approximately 1:50 PM, followed within minutes by the patient and Roach. As the Missouri family exited the driveway, Operation Rescue sidewalk counselor Cheryl Sullenger called out to them, "If you are experiencing complications, please go to the hospital. Don't risk your life!"

Roach sped out of the driveway and cut in front of the patient's vehicle. OR President Troy Newman ran down the street and heard an agitated Roach yell through the open car window at the patient, "Follow me! Follow me!"

But, according to Newman, the patient seemed distraught and told Roach, "No! We have to go this way!" indicating a route that would have taken them east on Kellogg Ave.

"Roach was driving like a bat out of hell," said Newman. "She flew down the narrow street and hit a dip. Her big old car flew up in the air. She seemed highly upset."

"The clinic was closed and the employees had left for the day. Why call back your abortionist, clinic manager, and the one worker known to deal with botched abortions if there was no problem?" asked Sullenger. "The level of agitation clearly indicated that something was wrong."

Rescuers attempted to search the area for the abortion victim and Roach, but were unable to locate them.

**February 18, 2006** – Tiller's mill was scheduled to be closed for the day, but pro-lifers who pray at the mill even on days that it is closed were present and observed Tiller, three office workers, the security guard, and a patient return to the mill in the morning. After some time, Tiller left in a caravan with the patient, a clinic worker, and the security guard. The patient seemed to be in much pain while the caravan of vehicles appeared to be in a rush. Two other employees were left inside the mill with the gate locked, and eventually left for the day.



Photo: Operation Rescue

***This Tiller abortion mill security guard, Carl Sweeney, has been seen lifting women who cannot walk into awaiting private vehicles.***

The only reason Tiller would see a patient under these circumstances is if she was experiencing complications from an abortion received earlier in the week. There have been a number of such incidents, and even one report of the security guard carrying an injured woman to a private vehicle while clinic workers lined up to block the view (and cameras) of pro-lifers on site at the time.